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SUBJECT Public Discontent in North Korea

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1. The food situation in North Korea is causing much unrest among the people for the following reasons:

a. The daily rice ration which can be purchased from stores operated by the North Korean National Consumers' Association is only three hap (合) per person.

Comment: One hap is equal to 1/100 of a tu.)

b. Two-thirds of the rice ration consists of cereals other than rice, even though, in the opinion of the people, the rice production in North Korea is more than enough to meet the demands of the entire North Korean population. The people, therefore, believe that large quantities of rice are being shipped to the USSR.

c. The people in the small towns and fishing villages of North Korea must buy their rice on the open market at very high prices because the National Consumers' Association operates stores only in the large cities.

2. Recently, approximately fifteen farmers and townspeople set on fire a food storehouse in Chinnampo (125-24, 38-44), because they had learned that the food in the storehouse was to be shipped to Dairen by the Soviet authorities. All those involved in the incident were shot to death by order of the Soviet military authorities.

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